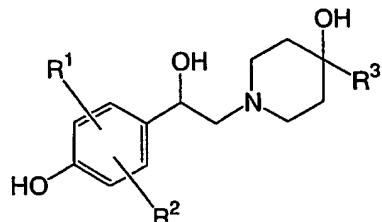


CLAIMS

1. A compound of the formula (I):



(I)

5 wherein R¹ and R² independently represents a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom or an alkyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms;

10 R³ represents an aryl group having from 6 to 10 ring carbon atoms or a heteroaryl group having from 5 to 10 ring atoms which consists of from 1 to 4 heteroatoms independently selected from the group consisting of sulfur atoms, oxygen atoms and nitrogen atoms;

said aryl groups having from 6 to 10 ring carbon atoms and said heteroaryl groups having from 5 to 10 atoms are unsubstituted or are substituted by at least one substituent selected from the group consisting of substituents α ;

said substituents α are selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms, alkyl groups having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, alkoxy groups having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms or alkoxyalkyl groups having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms;

15 or a pharmaceutically acceptable ester of such compound,

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. A compound according to Claim 1, wherein

20 R¹ and R² independently represents a hydrogen atom, a fluorine atom, a chlorine atom, or an alkyl group having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms.

3. A compound according to Claim 1 to 2, wherein:

25 R³ represents an aryl group having from 6 to 7 ring carbon atoms or a heteroaryl group having from 5 to 10 ring atoms which consists of from 1 to 2 heteroatoms independently selected from the group consisting of sulfur atoms, oxygen atoms and nitrogen atoms.

4. A compound according to Claim 1 to 2, wherein:

R^3 represents a phenyl group, a thiazolyl group, an isothiazolyl group, an oxazolyl group, an isoxazolyl group, a pyrrolyl group, a pyridyl group, a pyrimidine group, a quinolyl group, an isoquinolyl group, a tetrahydroquinolyl group, a tetrahydroisoquinolyl group, a chromanyl group or an isochromanyl group.

5 5. A compound according to Claim 1 to 2, wherein:

R^3 represents a phenyl group, a thiazolyl group, a pyridyl group, or an isochromanyl group.

6. A compound according to Claim 1 selected from

1-[2-(3-Fluoro-4-hydroxyphenyl)-2-hydroxyethyl]-4-(6-methoxypyridin-3-yl)-

10 piperidin-4-ol methanesulfonate;

4-(3,4-Dihydro-1*H*-isochromen-7-yl)-1-[2-(3-fluoro-4-hydroxyphenyl)-2-hydroxyethyl]piperidin-4-ol methanesulfonate;

1-[2-(3-Fluoro-4-hydroxyphenyl)-2-hydroxyethyl]-4-(3-fluorophenyl)piperidin-4-ol methanesulfonate;

15 4-(3,4-Dihydro-1*H*-isochromen-7-yl)-1-[2-hydroxy-2-(4-hydroxy-3-methylphenyl)ethyl]piperidin-4-ol;

4-(3-Fluorophenyl)-1-[2-hydroxy-2-(4-hydroxy-3-methylphenyl)ethyl]piperidin-4-ol;

20 1-[2-Hydroxy-2-(4-hydroxy-3-methylphenyl)ethyl]-4-(6-methoxypyridin-3-yl)-piperidin-4-ol;

1-[2-(2-Fluoro-4-hydroxyphenyl)-2-hydroxyethyl]-4-(3-fluorophenyl)piperidin-4-ol;

4-(3,4-Dihydro-1*H*-isochromen-7-yl)-1-[2-(2-fluoro-4-hydroxyphenyl)-2-hydroxyethyl]piperidin-4-ol;

1-[2-(2-Fluoro-4-hydroxyphenyl)-2-hydroxyethyl]-4-(6-methoxypyridin-3-yl)piperidin-4-ol;

25 4-(3-Fluorophenyl)-1-[2-hydroxy-2-(4-hydroxyphenyl)ethyl]piperidin-4-ol;

1-[2-hydroxy-2-(4-hydroxyphenyl)ethyl]-4-(6-methoxypyridin-3-yl)piperidin-4-ol;

1-[2-Hydroxy-2-(4-hydroxyphenyl)ethyl]-4-[4-(methoxymethyl)phenyl]piperidin-4-ol;

30 1-[2-Hydroxy-2-(4-hydroxy-3-methylphenyl)ethyl]-4-[4-(methoxymethyl)phenyl]piperidin-4-ol;

1-[2-Hydroxy-2-(4-hydroxy-3-methylphenyl)ethyl]-4-(5-methyl-1,3-thiazol-2-

yl)piperidin-4-ol;

1-[2-Hydroxy-2-(4-hydroxy-3-methylphenyl)ethyl]-4-(3-methoxypyridin-4-ol hydrochloride;

4-(6-Ethoxypyridin-3-yl)-1-[2-hydroxy-2-(4-hydroxy-3-methylphenyl)ethyl]-

5 piperidin-4-ol;

1-[2-(2-Fluoro-4-hydroxy-5-methylphenyl)-2-hydroxyethyl]-4-(6-methoxypyridin-3-yl)piperidin-4-ol;

4-(6-Fluoro-5-methoxypyridin-2-yl)-1-[2-hydroxy-2-(4-hydroxy-3-methylphenyl)ethyl]piperidin-4-ol;

10 1-[2-(3-chloro-4-hydroxyphenyl)-2-hydroxyethyl]-4-(6-methoxypyridin-3-yl)piperidin-4-ol hydrochloride;

1-[2-(3-chloro-4-hydroxyphenyl)-2-hydroxyethyl]-4-[4-(methoxymethyl)phenyl]piperidin-4-ol;

1-[2-(2,5-difluoro-4-hydroxyphenyl)-2-hydroxyethyl]-4-(3-fluorophenyl)piperidin-4-

15 ol; and

1-[2-(2,5-difluoro-4-hydroxyphenyl)-2-hydroxyethyl]-4-(6-methoxypyridin-3-yl)piperidin-4-ol; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

7. A compound according to claim 1 selected from

1-[2-(3-Fluoro-4-hydroxyphenyl)-2-hydroxyethyl]-4-(3-fluorophenyl)piperidin-4-ol

20 methanesulfonate;

4-(3,4-Dihydro-1*H*-isochromen-7-yl)-1-[2-hydroxy-2-(4-hydroxy-3-methylphenyl)ethyl]piperidin-4-ol;

4-(3-Fluorophenyl)-1-[2-hydroxy-2-(4-hydroxy-3-methylphenyl)ethyl]piperidin-4-ol;

25 1-[2-Hydroxy-2-(4-hydroxy-3-methylphenyl)ethyl]-4-(6-methoxypyridin-3-yl)piperidin-4-ol;

1-[2-(2-Fluoro-4-hydroxyphenyl)-2-hydroxyethyl]-4-(3-fluorophenyl)piperidin-4-ol;

4-(3,4-Dihydro-1*H*-isochromen-7-yl)-1-[2-(2-fluoro-4-hydroxyphenyl)-2-hydroxyethyl]piperidin-4-ol;

30 4-(3-Fluorophenyl)-1-[2-hydroxy-2-(4-hydroxyphenyl)ethyl]piperidin-4-ol;

1-[2-hydroxy-2-(4-hydroxyphenyl)ethyl]-4-(6-methoxypyridin-3-yl)piperidin-4-ol;

1-[2-Hydroxy-2-(4-hydroxyphenyl)ethyl]-4-[4-(methoxymethyl)phenyl]piperidin-4-

ol;

1-[2-Hydroxy-2-(4-hydroxy-3-methylphenyl)ethyl]-4-(3-methoxyphenyl)-piperidin-4-ol hydrochloride;

4-(6-Ethoxypyridin-3-yl)-1-[2-hydroxy-2-(4-hydroxy-3-methylphenyl)ethyl]-

5 piperidin-4-ol;

1-[2-(2-Fluoro-4-hydroxy-5-methylphenyl)-2-hydroxyethyl]-4-(6-methoxypyridin-3-yl)piperidin-4-ol; and

4-(6-Fluoro-5-methoxypyridin-2-yl)-1-[2-hydroxy-2-(4-hydroxy-3-methylphenyl)ethyl]piperidin-4-ol;

10 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

8. A pharmaceutical composition, which comprises a compound according to any one of claims 1-7, or a pharmaceutically acceptable ester of such compound, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a suitable pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

15 9. A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of disease conditions caused by overactivation of NMDA NR2B receptor, in a mammalian subject, which comprises a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to any one of claims 1-7, or a pharmaceutically acceptable ester of such compound, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a suitable pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

20 10. A pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 9 where the disease condition is selected from stroke or brain injury, chronic neurodegenerative disease such as Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease, Huntington's disease or amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), epilepsy, convulsive disorder, pain, anxiety, 25 human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) related neuronal injury, migraine, depression, schizophrenia, tumor, post-anesthesia cognitive decline (PACD), glaucoma, tinnitus, tradive dyskinesia, allergic encephalomyelitis, opioid tolerance, drug abuse, alcohol abuse and Irritable bowel syndrome (IBS),.

30 11. A method for the treatment of disease conditions caused by overactivation of NMDA NR2B receptor, in a mammalian subject, which comprises administering to said subject a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to any one of claims 1-7, or a pharmaceutically acceptable ester of such

compound, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

12. A method according to Claim 11 where the disease condition is selected from stroke or brain injury, chronic neurodegenerative disease such as 5 Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease, Huntington's disease or amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), epilepsy, convulsive disorder, pain, anxiety, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) related neuronal injury, migraine, depression, schizophrenia, tumor, post-anesthesia cognitive decline (PACD), glaucoma, tinnitus, 10 tardive dyskinesia, allergic encephalomyelitis, opioid tolerance, drug abuse and alcohol abuse.

13. Use of a compound according to any one of claims 1-7, or a pharmaceutically acceptable ester of such compound, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, as a medicament.

14. Use of a compound according to any one of claims 1-7, or a pharmaceutically acceptable ester of such compound, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of 15 disease conditions caused by overactivation of NMDA NR2B receptor in a mammalian subject.